

Shipmate July-August 2026
Duke Longworth
27 May 2026

Summer is full of adventure for the midshipmen – Firstie Cruise to the romantic ports in Italy, Spain, France, and Greece. Or, the exotic ports in Hawaii and beyond! Segundos going to New London submarine base, Little Creek amphib base, Pensacola air station – all filled with adventure and a portal to future tours of duty! After both Firstie Cruise and Segundo adventures I returned to the Yard for Plebe Detail. Both times were opportunities to learn more about Annapolis and USNA! Okay, some of you readers know I was dating a certain townie in those days, so there was motivation to be there! Youngster Cruise was different than the cruises of today! Many of us lived with the enlisted sailors where we experienced the tight berthing spaces and “hot racking” bunk beds, standing watch in the engine room where the forced-air blowers provided a modicum of “cooling”, scraping paint and painting, and more. Youngster Cruise was a real eye-opener to living on a ship! Indelible memories for sure! San Juan liberty with **Joe Enright** and **Duane Brown** was too much fun! Priceless memories written with indelible ink! We can only imagine what today’s Mids are doing this summer!

First up is a note from **Paul Smith**: Duke, my wife Cathy and I were visiting Chapel Hill in search of a senior living arrangement (for a much older friend of course). After an afternoon of visiting a local park and walking trail we stopped at a restaurant for dinner. We heard from the booth behind us someone regaling his dinner companions with ‘sea stories’ from his days at the Naval Academy and as a Marine. It turned out to be one of our own, the irrepressible **Keith Nadolski**. Here's a picture to prove it (Keith, his wife Christie, yours truly, my wife Cathy). I didn't have the heart to ‘fact check’ Keith's storytelling as I didn't want to ruin this brief but pleasant and unexpected reunion of classmates and fellow Marines. Semper Fi and Beat Army! Paul.” I have it by way of a reputable source that all of Keith’s sea



(Keith & Christie, Paul & Cathy)

stories are historically and factually correct!

Perry Martini sent this note to all Classmates: “It is with great pleasure to announce that our classmate, **Craig Welling** 36th CO, has stepped forward to relieve **Phil Williams** 28th CO, our longtime webmaster for our Class of 71 website.

“On behalf of our Class Executive Board, comprised of our Class Officers and Board of Trustees, I want to extend *our heartfelt thanks and gratitude* to Phil for his long-standing work on our class website. Phil has been responsible for keeping our class website up-to-date especially with the Fallen Shipmates, class *Shipmate* column, and all the information on our past three reunions including the 55th this fall.

“Welcome aboard to our new USNA Class of 71 Webmaster – Craig Welling!
Duces Virum, Perry Martini.”

I hope all classmates are preparing for our 55th Reunion set for October 8-10 with reunion at the Doubletree Hotel.

Priced Class events will include:

- Registration of every Attendee (Classmates, 1st Guests, & other Guests)
- Thursday morning Golf (Queenstown Harbor Lakes Golf Course)
- Thursday late afternoon Welcome Aboard Party (DoubleTree Hotel)
- Saturday Tailgate (N* room, which also requires purchase of a football game ticket for entry into the stadium)
- Sunday Brunch (DoubleTree Hotel)

No charge Class events will include:

- Friday Class Memorial Service for Fallen Shipmates (TBA - Alumni Hall or Mahan Hall)
- Friday Superintendent’s Address (TBA - Alumni Hall or Mahan Hall)
- Friday Parade

For more information I recommend you go to: <http://1971.usnaclasses.net/55th-reunion-information/>

I look forward to seeing you in October!

Sadly, two classmates have passed away since the last column.

Michael “Mike: Francis Strojny Jr., 76, of Moretown, VT, passed away on March 24, doing what he loved on the mountain he loved. Mike was born on September 9, 1949, in Taunton, Massachusetts, to Michael F. Strojny Sr. and Mary (Smith) Strojny. He attended school in Massachusetts, graduated from Taunton High School, and attended the United States Naval Academy with our class in 1967 and departed in the

spring of our third-class year. Mike went on to earn a bachelor's degree in outdoor education from Northeastern University.

After directing outdoor summer programs for under-resourced students in Maine and running children's recreation programs in Taunton, Mike moved permanently to Vermont in 1981. There, he enjoyed a fulfilling career built around his love of the outdoors and active living. He worked at Sugarbush Resort, was an integral part of the early years of Merrell Boot Company, owned and operated his business, Denali International, for many years, and worked at Peregrine Outfitters. He retired from Umiak Outdoor Outfitters, where he shared his enthusiasm for outdoor adventure with others.

Mike had many passions, including skiing at Sugarbush and both playing and teaching pickleball. An avid outdoorsman, he loved paddling rivers, lakes, and on the ocean each summer. He served on the Moretown Recreation Committee and had a special fondness for senior league baseball. Mike was also a lifelong photographer, capturing nature and people through his lens.

Mike is survived by his wife, Valerie Boesse Strojny. He is held dear by his children Michael Strojny III and his fiancé, Katelyn Costello, of Gilbert, AZ; David Strojny and his wife, Megan Strojny, of Palm Harbor, FL; Morgan Tewksbury and her husband, Shane Tewksbury, of Moretown, VT; Jared Boesse and his husband, Colin Levy, of Great Barrington, MA; and Jefferey Boesse of Natick, MA. Also, he is survived by his loving grandchildren Rihannah, Lara, Jonathan-David, and Callum, and by his sister, Beth Hamilton, and her husband, Joe Hamilton, of Hobe Sound, FL. Mike was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Mary Strojny.

He will be remembered for his quick wit, warm smile, and generous spirit, and for the playful sense of humor he brought to every gathering.

Memorial contributions may be made to Vermont River Conservancy, Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports, or Audubon Vermont in memory of Mike.

An open house gathering to celebrate Mike was held on June 6, 2026, at the 1824 House Inn & Barn in Waitsfield, Vermont.

Online condolences may be shared at www.guareandsons.com.

John Barry, a proud son of Tipperary Hill, was born and raised in Syracuse, NY, where he graduated from St. Patrick's High School in 1966. He joined our class on 28 June 1967 and graduated 9 June 1971 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. His full obituary is in this *Shipmate Last Call*.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, safety in travels, and strength to

meet every challenge. **Today** is a gift – life is precious and too short! Love passionately, give, and share your time and blessings generously with others – as we are richly blessed so may we richly bless others. Our leadership at home, in our social circles, and in daily routines is vital to maintaining our nation’s constitutional republic. Our training to think critically and to analyze problems is necessary to solve our nation’s challenges. Now is the time to shape the future of our great nation as we strive for a more perfect union. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide, and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke